basis. The amount of Central assistance provided for these projects during the last three years is as under:

	(Rs. in lakhs)
1995-96	403.84
1996-97	295.00
1997-98	63.84

Subsidies for Farmers

1685. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the direct and indirect subsidies granted to farmers, alongwith their annual impact;

(b) the subsidies, out of them, granted to small and marginal farmers as well as to relatively poor sections amongst them;

(c) whether any study has been conducted to ascertain that the benefit of subsidies reach the targeted people;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(e) if not, the manner in which it is ensured that the benefits of the subsidies actually reach the targeted people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) and (b) Major agricultural input subsidies given to the farmers are fertilizers, irrigation and power. A statement giving the details of these subsidies is attached (see below). Subsidies on irrigation and power are given indirectly by the State Governments charging lower rates than that a actual costs. The subsidies on fertilisers are also rooted through the manufacturers/suppliers of fertilisers.

All the subsidies/concessions are available to all the categories of farmers including small and marginal ones.

(c) to (e) No study has been conducted to verify whether such subsidies/ concessions reach the targeted population. However, it is not practically feasible to pay the subsidies concessions directly to the farmers whose number is nearly 105 million and spread over the length and breadth of the country. All the policy guidelines for payment of subsidies/concessions are keeping in view the interests of the farmers.

Statement

Details of Major Subsidy in Agriculture

(Rs. in crores)

Subsidy	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98	
I. Fertilizers	5796	4400	5244	6733	7767	9190	10026
(a) Imported Fertilizers	996	600	1166	1933	1350	1950	826
(b) Domestic Fertilizers	4800	3800	4078	4300	4743	5240	6600
(c) Sale of decontrolled fertilizers with concessions to farmers.	—	N.A.	N.A.	500	1674	2000	2600
II. Electricity Subsidy	7205	8888	10113	13794	15329	17285	N.A.
III. Irrigation Subsidy	5235	5495	6828	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.

(i) Electricity includes all subsidies to agriculture sector of all electricity Boards and corporations except DESU. (economic Survey)

(ii) The rates for supply of water to farmers are kept low as a matter of policy, resulting in losses to the Government irrigation system. The excess of operating costs over the gross revenue is treated as imputed irrigation subsidy (CSO).

(iii) The subsidies for production and distribution of improved seeds minikits, machine tools, tractors, drip irrigation, plant protection measures, oil and water conservation, demonstration and training programmes are also being provided to the farmers.

(iv) All these subsidies are being continued during the 9th Plan which is yet to be finalised.

Cotton Crisis in Andhra Pradesh

1686. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the cotton crisis in Andhra Pradesh is the result of a national seed policy which encouraged privatisation of the seed sector; and

(b) the result of the case study of farmers who committed suicides in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No report relating to case study has been received from the Government of Andhra Pradesh. However, the Government of Andhra Pradesh has reported that the suicidal deaths were due to indebtedness on account of crop failure resulting from adverse seasonal conditions.

Encouragement of Floriculture

1687. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA NAHATA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are encouraging floriculture all over the country;

(b) what are the incentives available to improve the floriculture sector;

(c) whether any areas have been selected in Andhra Pradesh to develop floriculture; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) and (b) The Department of Agriculture and Cooperation is implementing a Central Sector Scheme of Commercial Floriculture throughout the country, under which financial assistance of Rs. 60,000/- per ha. is being provided. Eleven Model Floriculture Centres in public sector are being set up for supply of elite planting material and training of the farmers. The National Horticulture Board provides assistance through the following two schemes to promote floriculture (i) Integrated Project on Management of Post Harvest Infrastructure of Horticulture Crops (ii) Development of Marketing of Horticultural Produce through participation in Soft Loan.

Besides, Agricultural and Processed Food Export Development Authority (APEDA) under the Ministry of Commerce also implements various schemes for encouraging floriculture export.

(c) and (d) Areas in and around Hyderabad have been selected as potential areas for flower production. A Model Floriculture Centre is also being set up near Hyderabad under Central Assistance.